



John F. Merrigan, Franklin Register of Probate

John F. Merrigan was elected as Register of The Franklin Probate and Family Court in 2002. In his current capacity, he founded the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County & the North Quabbin Region that he now co-chairs with Sheriff Chris Donelan and District Attorney David Sullivan. He was appointed by Chief Justice Paula Carey to serve on the Trial Court Task Force for Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Register Merrigan also served as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he represented the Second Franklin District from 1995 to 2002.



Christopher Donelan, Franklin County Sheriff

Sheriff Donelan has dedicated his life to public safety and effective substance abuse interventions. A former police officer and probation officer who helped establish the Orange District Court Drug Court, Sheriff Donelan served four terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives representing Franklin County. Most recently, as the Franklin County Sheriff, he has changed the House of Correction's culture and focus to identify and treat the underlying mental health and substance abuse issues that have contributed to the criminal thinking behind criminal behavior. He is one of the co-founders and co-chairs of the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County & the North Quabbin Region.



Beth A. Crawford, Franklin Probate & Family Court First Justice

Beth A. Crawford has served as the First Justice of the Franklin Probate and Family Court since 2013. Judge Crawford received her undergraduate degree from Kenyon College and her J.D. from the University of Illinois. From 2004 until she was appointed to the bench in 2012, she served as an assistant judicial case manager in the Hampshire Division of the Probate and Family Court. She also previously worked as an attorney in private practice and in the Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement unit.



Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice of the Trial Court

Hon. Paula M. Carey was appointed as Chief Justice of the Trial Court in 2013. Prior to that, she was the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court having been appointed to that position on October 2, 2007. She was appointed an Associate Justice of the Norfolk Probate and Family Court in 2001. Prior to her appointment to the bench in January 2001, she was a partner in the firm of Carey & Mooney, PC, where she specialized in domestic relations matters. Chief Justice Carey is a graduate of New England School of Law.



Angela M. Ordoñez, Chief Justice of the Probate & Family Court

Judge Ordoñez has served as Chief Justice of the Probate & Family Court since July 16, 2013. She was appointed as a judge to the Probate & Family Court in 2000, after seven years as an Assistant Register of Probate in Suffolk County and three years as an attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services. She was appointed the First Justice of Norfolk County in 2011 and had previously served as First Justice of Nantucket County. In 2010, she was named a Distinguished Jurist by the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers. In 2001, she received the Las Primeras Award from the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys.



Edward Dolan, Commissioner of Probation

Edward Dolan brings over 30 years of experience working in the state justice system to his role as the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Probation Service. Prior to becoming Commissioner in 2013, Mr. Dolan held senior roles in Parole, Forensic Mental Health, and the Department of Youth Services. Mr. Dolan has a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in government from UMass/Amherst.



David E. Sullivan, Northwestern District Attorney

District Attorney David Sullivan has had a multi-faceted legal career. From 2003 to 2011 he served as the Register of the Hampshire Probate and Family Court. He was elected Northwestern District Attorney in 2010 and began serving in January 2011. By nature, he sees the individuality in court cases, understanding that each docket represents people, not just numbers. As Northwestern District Attorney, he has supported partnerships and collaborations to make our communities safer, ranging from the Medical Recycling Boxes in local police departments for unused prescription drugs to the new Veterans Court, an outgrowth of DA Sullivan's Veterans Justice Partnership. He is one of the co-founders and co-chairs of the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County & the North Quabbin Region.



Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General

Maura Healey was sworn in as Attorney General on January 21, 2015, pledging to lead the People's Law Firm. Since taking office, Healey has tackled issues touching the lives of residents across Massachusetts including the heroin and prescription drug abuse epidemic, escalating health care costs, workers' rights and student loan costs. Early in her career, Healey clerked for Judge David Mazzone in the United States District Court in Massachusetts. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Healey was a junior partner at the international law firm Wilmer Hale (formerly Hale and Dorr). She is a former Special Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County, where she tried drug, assault, domestic violence and motor vehicle cases. Healey graduated from Harvard College in 1992.



Dr. Ruth Potee

Dr. Potee grew up in the North Quabbin region and returned to the area with her family after training as a medical doctor and serving patients in the Boston area. As part of the Valley Medical Group, she saw firsthand the toll that addiction takes on patients, and she became a vocal advocate when the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County & the North Quabbin Region was created. She has become a leading voice and force in the medical field for recognizing that addiction is a chronic disease that needs treatment.